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Musk agrees to pay \$1.5M over Twitter share buying

Washington, United States

Elon Musk on Monday agreed to pay a small amount to end a government lawsuit that accused him of breaking stock market rules when he was secretly buying up shares of Twitter before his \$44 billion takeover of the social media platform in 2022.

Musk's trust will pay a \$1.5 million fine under the deal, which was filed in a Washington federal court and still needs a judge's approval.

The case involves Musk's missing a statutory deadline for notifying regulators as he bought more and more Twitter shares ahead of the takeover.

Musk's attorney Alex Spiro cast the outcome as a vindication, saying his client "has now been cleared of all issues related to the late filing of forms in the Twitter acquisition, as we said from the outset he would be."

"A trust vehicle has agreed



An Elon Musk sign sits in a bush the federal courthouse during proceedings in the trial over Elon Musk's lawsuit against OpenAI in Oakland, California, on April 30, 2026.

to a small fine for being late on one filing," Spiro said.

In an email to AFP, Spiro added that the deal with the US government was not a settlement "because he did nothing wrong."

"The case against him was dismissed," Spiro said.

The case centered on a simple rule: when an investor buys more than five percent of a publicly traded company, they are required by law to disclose

that stake within 10 days.

The Securities and Exchange Commission, the federal agency that polices financial markets, in January 2025 said Musk blew past that deadline by 11 days when he was build-

ing up his position in Twitter in early 2022.

The SEC said Musk's delay allowed him to keep buying at bargain prices, saving himself an estimated \$150 million at the expense of other shareholders who sold without knowing what was happening.

Despite those allegations, the deal with the SEC does not require Musk to pay back any of those savings. His trust agreed only to the \$1.5 million penalty and a promise not to violate the same rule again -- without admitting he did anything wrong.

The SEC said it amended its complaint to add Musk's trust as a defendant and filed the proposed settlement at the same time. If the judge signs off, the agency said it will drop Musk personally from the case, ending it entirely.

The lawsuit was first filed just days before then-president Joe Biden left office. □

U.S. to assess new AI models before their release

New York, United States

The U.S. government on Tuesday announced in a policy shift that it will have access to tech giants'

new AI models to evaluate them before they are released.

The agreements with Google DeepMind, Micro-

soft and xAI come after the Trump administration had earlier adopted a hands-off approach to regulation as Silicon Valley rolled out artificial intelligence technology that is changing modern life at breakneck pace.

The partnerships are based on agreements reached when Joe Biden was in power, and have been renegotiated under Donald Trump, officials said.

The New York Times reported Monday the White House is discussing an executive order that would establish a working group of tech executives and government officials to examine potential review procedures for new AI

models.

The Center for AI Standards and Innovation (CAISI), which is part of the Commerce Department, said it "will conduct pre-deployment evaluations and targeted research to better assess frontier AI capabilities and advance the state of AI security."

It was not immediately clear if the agreements announced Tuesday are linked to the working group that the Times says is being discussed.

The CAISI replaced the U.S. Artificial Intelligence Safety Institute created by the Biden administration in 2023.

President Trump had positioned himself as a cham-

pion of unfettered AI development, rolling back Biden-era safety evaluation requirements and casting regulation as a threat to US competitiveness with China.

The Biden administration had issued an executive order in 2023 that required AI developers to share safety test results with the government and directed federal agencies to set standards for the technology. But Trump rescinded these measures shortly after taking office.

The immediate catalyst was the emergence of a powerful new AI model called Mythos, built by the San Francisco start-up Anthropic. □



(L-R) Francis deSouza and Sharon Goldman speak onstage during the "How Google Is Scaling Enterprise AI Adoption with Trust" panel at the HumanX Conference San Francisco 2026 at Moscone Center South on April 07, 2026 in San Francisco, California.

How an ancient seed is solving America's modern water crisis

As the sun rises over the municipal water treatment facility in Scottsdale, Arizona, a quiet revolution is brewing in the settling tanks. There are no heavy chemical scents or loud industrial scrubbers. Instead, there is the faint, earthy aroma of crushed seeds. These seeds belong to the *Moringa oleifera*, a plant native to the foothills of the Himalayas, now being hailed as a "miracle tree" that could fundamentally change how the United States secures its clean water future.

For decades, American water infrastructure has relied on synthetic coagulants like aluminum sulfate to clarify drinking water. While effective, these chemicals leave behind a sludge that is difficult to dispose of and have raised long-term health concerns. Enter the Moringa tree. This week, a landmark study published by a coalition of researchers from the University of Arizona and MIT has confirmed that the proteins found in Moringa seeds are not just a "natural alternative"—they are arguably superior.

The study, which concluded a three-year pilot program, revealed that crushed Moringa seeds can remove up to 98% of microplastics and 95% of harmful bacteria from raw water. For a nation currently grappling with the "forever chemical" crisis of PFAS and the pervasive spread of microplastics in the Great Lakes and Western reservoirs, the discovery feels like a gift from the natural world.

"We have been looking for a 'silver bullet' for microplastic filtration for a decade," says Dr. Elena Rodriguez, the lead environmental engineer on the project. "We found it in a tree that grows in sandy soil and requires almost no water. The protein in these seeds acts like a molecular magnet. It binds to pollutants, heavy metals, and plastic fibers, causing them



Moringa Tree

to clump together and sink to the bottom. What's left is water that is nearly surgical-grade in its purity."

The implications for rural America are particularly profound. In many Appalachian and Southern communities, aging infrastructure and the high cost of chemical treatments have left residents with substandard tap water. Because Moringa trees can be grown in various U.S. climates from the humid South to the arid Southwest the "Miracle Tree" offers a decentralized, low-cost solution.

In the small town of Crystal Springs, Mississippi, mayor Thomas Arrington is already looking at how to integrate Moringa filtration into the local grid. "Our current budget is squeezed by the rising cost of imported chemicals," Arrington notes. "If we can grow our own filtration system in a greenhouse or a local grove, we aren't just cleaning our water; we're creating a local industry. It's about self-reliance."

The motivational aspect of this breakthrough extends beyond the laboratory. The Moringa tree has long been a symbol of resilience in global health circles. Its leaves are packed with

more protein than eggs and more vitamin C than oranges, earning it the nickname "The Tree of Life" in parts of Africa and Asia. Seeing this ancient wisdom applied to high-tech American environmental challenges represents a shift in how modern science views traditional knowledge.

However, the path to nationwide adoption isn't without hurdles. Federal regulations from the EPA require rigorous testing before organic coagulants can replace traditional methods on a mass scale. There is also the logistical challenge of scaling up seed production to meet the demands of cities like Chicago or Los Angeles. Yet, the momentum is undeniable. □

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A Republican running California? Divided Democrats might pave the way

Los Angeles, United States
California is reckoning with the possibility of what has long seemed improbable: a Republican in the governor's mansion.

The Golden State has been a Democratic Party lock since action star Arnold Schwarzenegger moved on from the state's highest office in 2011 and returned to Hollywood.

But as voting in the primary election is set to begin, two Republicans lead opinion polls over a large and lackluster field of Democratic candidates, raising the tantalizing prospect that no Democrat will advance to the general election in November.

That's because unlike most other states where each party has its own election to choose a standard-bearer California has a so-called "jungle primary" that pits all-comers against each other.

As things stand right now, that could mean Chad Bianco, the mustachioed sheriff of Riverside County versus British-American po-



Chad Bianco (R) speaks during CBS Television Stations' California Gubernatorial Debate on April 28, 2026 in Claremont, California.

litical strategist Steve Hilton. "It's going to be he and I going to November," Bianco intoned at a recent televised debate, nodding towards Hilton.

Their styles might be different Bianco has the careworn swagger of a frontiersman, while Hilton has

an immigrant's enthusiasm for his adopted homeland but both are capitalizing on a vein of deep disgruntlement running through California.

- High costs -

Home to Silicon Valley and some of the world's

most successful businesses, America's most populous state has a huge economy -- the world's fourth largest if it were a country.

But many Californians complain bitterly about the cost of living, squeezed by sky-high housing prices and the most expensive gas in the

country.

There's also the very visible, and seemingly intractable, problem of homelessness, which inflicts misery on the thousands who suffer it and scars the streets of great cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco.

"When voters are unhappy, the party in power is usually the one that's held responsible," Sara Sadhwani, a political scientist at Pomona College, told AFP.

But with the June 2 polling day still a month off, Sadhwani believes there's still plenty of time for the landscape to shift.

Around a quarter of all voters tell pollsters they have not made up their minds yet, so the idea that no Democrat could make the top two seems "overblown" she said.

"At the end of the day, California is a majority Democrat state," she said.

- Five dozen candidates -

More than five dozen people are registered as candidates for governor, 24 of them Democrats. □

New York restaurant's \$40 half chicken fuels cost of dining debate

New York, United States
Hugo Hivernat's restaurant was only open for a few days before he got dragged into New York's cost of living row for pricing a half rotisserie chicken at \$40.

For some, the cost highlights how dining out has become prohibitively expensive in one of the world's culinary capitals. But Hivernat insists that steep overheads leave little room for profit.

"We are at the mercy of the affordability crisis," he told AFP at Gigi's, a small, wooden-floored restaurant in a trendy Brooklyn neighborhood.

"Maybe people think we're driving a Porsche in the Hamptons on the weekends with our \$40 chicken, but we're like everyone here," Hivernat added, referring to a wealthy beach resort in the New York area.

The cost of living is a worry across the United States and is acutely felt in New York, where leftist Mayor Zohran Mamdani was elected largely on promises to counter the problem.

Its restaurants are not immune to inflation, from operating costs to wholesale food prices.



A cook prepares a rotisserie chicken with potatoes during dinner service at the French restaurant Gigi's in the Brooklyn borough of New York City on April 26, 2026.

Menu prices in the city rose by 43.6 percent in the decade up to 2023, compared to 42.8 percent nationally, according to a report this February by the state's fiscal watchdog.

"People have a very strong idea about how much things should cost in the restaurant industry, but they have absolutely no

idea what the real cost is," Hivernat said.

The 36-year-old, who co-ran the esteemed Fulgurances restaurant in Paris and New York before opening Gigi's this month, said his pricing falls in line with industry standards. He explained that 25 percent of the \$40 revenue is spent on raw ingredients including quality chicken from upstate New York and the rest goes toward rent, bills, salaries and other expenses.

Anything left, Hivernat added, helps pay down the half-a-million dollar debt incurred from opening the restaurant.

- 'Just getting by' -

The chicken row gained traction after a local lawmaker alluded to the \$40 menu price in an exasperated Instagram post that received over 9,000 likes.

It prompted one local food outlet to produce a "half chicken price index" ranking the dishes from below \$10 all the way to \$78 at a French restaurant in affluent Manhattan.

However, a stream of online commenters defended Gigi's and pointed to the financial pressures for small businesses.

"Many restaurants aren't even making money. They're just getting by," Andrew Rigie, executive director of the New York City Hospitality Alliance, told AFP.

He noted a confluence of factors including insurance premiums, slow economic recovery from the Covid pandemic, and higher food costs the latter partly due to tariffs imposed by President Donald Trump. Menu prices will inevitably reflect those pressures, Rigie said. □

For Israel's Circassians, food and language sustain an ancient heritage

Rehaniya, Israel

On a sunny afternoon, Shina Shabso was busy making traditional cheese pastries for a wedding on Israel's border with Lebanon, the celebration in the Circassian village of Rehaniya a much-needed break from weeks of war.

Known as "halyuj", the fried semi-circular pastries are a staple of life in this tiny community of Circassians spread across two villages in northern Israel and are served up to honor guests at a celebration or to comfort those who mourn.

"Preserving traditional food, especially Circassian cheese, is very important because in Israel we are a minority of around 5,000," said Shabso, who filled them with her own freshly-made cheese, the tradition passed down through families for generations.

"It's important for the next generation to know where we came from, what people used to eat and how they used to produce it," said the 32-year-old artisan cheesemaker who runs Gvinot Shabso with her husband Itzik.

It is an explanation she often gave tour groups who would visit before the north-



Shina Shabso and her husband Itzik Shabso prepare cheese pastries for a wedding in the Circassian village of Rehaniya in northern Israel, near the border with Lebanon on April 30, 2026.

ern border started coming under heavy Hezbollah fire with the start of the 2023 Gaza war.

Like their Jewish and Arab neighbors, the Circassians Sunni Muslims who serve in the Israeli army have had their lives disrupted by the latest fighting between Hezbollah and Israel that began in March.

For now, though, the skies were clear with only a few distant booms echoing over the border some 4.5 kilometers (nearly three miles) away.

- Loyalty to the place -

The Circassians are an ethnic group indigenous to the North Caucasus, a mountainous region between the Black and Caspian seas, in what is today primarily southern Russia.

They were massacred and forcibly expelled from their homeland by Russian troops between 1860 and 1864 in what their descendants want recognized as genocide, its anniversary marked every May 21.

Known for their resilience to harsh conditions, fight-

ing skills and loyalty to the place they live, the Circassians were brought to the Middle East by the Ottoman Empire in the mid-1870s and never left.

Today, they number five million worldwide, of which three million live in Turkey, 120,000 in Syria and 100,000 in Jordan, while the rest are scattered across Russia, Europe and the United States. "When the rulers changed, the Circassians stuck with it, they're people of their word. Loyalty means you're

loyal to your surroundings," said Zuher Tchaocho, 52, director of the Circassian museum in Kfar Kama, the other Circassian village.

Although he speaks Hebrew, his native tongue is Circassian a phonetically-rich language based on 64 letters written in Cyrillic that graces the street signs, alongside Hebrew and Arabic.

"This is the only place in the world where children are taught Circassian as part of the education system," Tchaocho said.

- A living language -

The everyday use of Circassian is what sets the community apart, according to Riyadh Gosh, 80, former head of Circassian heritage at Israel's education ministry.

"We've retained our Circassian identity 100 percent.. We preserve our community in language, culture, customs and behaviour," he said, wearing a green baseball cap with the 12 gold stars and three crossed arrows of the Circassian flag.

"But we're a people that is disappearing because many don't speak the language, it's not preserved like we preserve it here. That really hurts me." □

Suu Kyi's son urges Myanmar to provide 'proof of life'

Paris, France

The son of Myanmar's deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi Tuesday demanded France's help in seeking independently verified proof of his mother's life after she was transferred to house arrest, her lawyers said.

The country's junta chief-turned-president Min Aung Hlaing on Thursday ordered the 80-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner to be moved, five years after putting her into detention in a coup.

But her son, Kim Aris, says he has still not heard from his mother, who remains massively popular inside

Myanmar.

"I implore France to join my call so that we may obtain independently verified proof of life, and so that her fundamental rights are guaranteed: appropriate medical care, access to her lawyers and to her family," he wrote in a letter addressed to French President Emmanuel Macron seen by AFP.

Suu Kyi's lawyer, Francois Zimeray, said that Aris handed the letter to France's Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot at a meeting on Tuesday.

"We have had no proof of life, no photos for years, not even any indication

that she was actually transferred. We still don't know where she is," he told AFP. The office of Min Aung Hlaing on Thursday shared an undated photograph appearing to show Suu Kyi sitting flanked by two men in uniform.

"But we don't know if it's real or if it's AI," Zimeray said.

Lawyer Catalina de la Sota, also representing Suu Kyi, added: "We cannot imagine that she is no longer alive, but why is she being kept in total secrecy, in violation of all international conventions? We are worried about her health."

Barrot during the meeting



This undated handout photo from the Myanmar Military Information Team released on April 30, 2026 shows Aung San Suu Kyi (C) talking in an undisclosed location.

said "France would continue to work for the immediate and unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi," the foreign ministry said. Min Aung Hlaing toppled Suu Kyi's elected government in 2021, detaining her

on a host of charges which rights groups say were concocted to sideline her.

The ensuing civil war has killed thousands and displaced millions in the southeast Asian country of roughly 50 million. □

As population surges, Kyrgyzstan's schools buckle

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

When his son's school in Kyrgyzstan's capital Bishkek started the year without a maths teacher, Azamat Bekenov and his fellow parents had to take to social media themselves to try to find a candidate.

Grappling with a surging young population, underfunding, outdated textbooks, overcrowded classes and dilapidated facilities, the poor Central Asian nation is battling to modernise its education system.

Unions say the country's schools are on the "brink of collapse", while officials in Bishkek say the problems are a drag on prosperity in the mountainous ex-Soviet country of some seven million people.

"My son didn't have a maths teacher in the first term high-school students were teaching instead," said Bekenov, who has three children in the Bishkek school system.

"We were looking for teachers, I was posting on Facebook."

Eventually a replacement was found.

His case is far from an isolated one. There is a shortage of around 1,000 teachers



English teacher Kanykei Sovetova, 30, teaches pupils at a school in the northwestern village of Bukara, some 100 km from the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek, on February 6, 2026.

across the country.

Around 40 percent of the population is under the age of 18.

And the number of students has jumped by 500,000 or 50 percent over the last 10 years, according to President Sadyr Japarov.

The system has been unable to catch up.

"There are 52 students in my son's class and 50 in my daughter's," Bekenov told AFP.

"My eldest is doing well

there are only 38 there," he said wryly.

- 'Obsolete' -

Authorities are acutely aware of the problem.

They are trying to overhaul a curriculum dubbed "irretrievably obsolete and of very poor quality", and have acknowledged low standards among teachers trained since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The three decades since have been marked by

economic collapse, emigration, and social and political instability.

Around a quarter of people still live on the equivalent of less than 50 euros (\$58.5) a month.

Education issues have been a major brake on development.

Kyrgyzstan's labor productivity is the worst among European and Central Asian countries, according to a 2023 report from the United Nations.

And in the mid-2000s, it twice placed last in the PISA test, a study by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) tracking educational attainment around the world.

The government has extended compulsory schooling from 11 to 12 years, is building new schools, increasing teachers' salaries and acquiring modern textbooks from Russia.

Around 22 percent of the state's budget is allocated to education.

- 'Nothing in the classroom' -

Inside the outdated classrooms, the scale of the task is clear.

"I teach history. The subject should come alive, with maps and archival images. I want to help children discover the world," said Gulmira Umetalieva, who works at a school in the eastern city of Karakol.

"But there is nothing in the classroom. No computer, no projector, not even a simple screen. The classrooms are run-down, the desks are wobbly, the chairs squeak," she said. □

Europe's first commercial robotaxi service rolls out in Croatia

Zagreb, Croatia

For nearly a month, a Croatian company has been rolling out what it says is Europe's first robotaxi service on the streets of Zagreb, with AFP among the first journalists to try it on Tuesday.

Backed by Uber and powered by Chinese self-driving firm Pony.ai, Croatia's Verne has operated 10 automated vehicles for a select number of customers in the city since April 8.

Despite similar services being available in China and the United States for years, multiple companies are still competing to bring autonomous taxi services to European roads.

Verne's service is intended to be fully autonomous, with a human "operator" temporarily behind the wheel during the current phased rollout, in case in-

tervention is needed.

- Smooth operator -

During AFP's ride with the service, which the company says is used by 300 people, the operator a Verne employee named Deni Link never had to step in.

The mostly smooth ride was only interrupted when an

oncoming vehicle veered into the wrong lane, forcing the car to stop suddenly.

"Sorry, we had to brake," a calm woman's voice told AFP and the other passengers.

Despite the often chaotic Croatian traffic and complicated intersections,



A Verne RoboTaxi vehicle drives on the streets of Zagreb on May 5, 2026. For nearly a month, Europe's first robotaxi service has been quietly moving through the streets of Zagreb, with AFP among the first journalists to try it.

Verne's head of country operations, Filip Cindric, said most rides are completed "without any intervention".

According to Cindric, who accompanied AFP during the ride, 90 percent of riders gave the service four or five stars, with no reported collisions over tens of thousands of kilometres.

- Gradual expansion -

Although the service was first announced in early April, sightings of the vehicles on Zagreb streets have been rare.

For now, the vehicles operate in the city centre, parts of the south, and around the airport, Verne CEO Marko Pejkoic told AFP.

"Expansion is gradual, with each new zone introduced only after detailed validation and once the system is proven reliable in real-

world conditions," Pejkoic said in a statement.

According to the company, interest in the automated service, which costs 1.99 euros (\$2.32) per ride, has been strong, with around 4,000 people currently on the waiting list.

Pejkoic said the low price was aimed at enticing users and encouraging feedback, with prices expected to rise as the service grows.

- More cities to come -

Ordered through Verne's app like any rideshare service, the automated vehicles are equipped with multiple cameras, lidar lasers and radars to help navigate the streets.

Verne, founded in 2019, said discussions were under way in 11 cities across the European Union, the United Kingdom, and the Middle East. □



CAYA Introduces a Bold New Menu Celebrating Latin Caribbean Flavors



(Oranjestad)—CAYA, one of Aruba's most beloved dining destinations, continues to celebrate the vibrant essence of Latin Caribbean cuisine with an exciting new menu that beautifully balances tradition and innovation.

Nestled in a beautifully restored traditional Aruban Cunucu house, surrounded by lush tropical greenery, CAYA offers guests a dining experience that feels both authentic and contemporary. The restaurant's philosophy is simple yet profound: to create a space where the warmth of island hospitality meets the creativity of modern gastronomy.

The new menu reflects this vision with a series

of inspired dishes that showcase the diversity of Caribbean and Latin American flavors. From Cuba to Colombia, and from Aruba to Mexico, each plate tells a story rooted in heritage and reimagined through CAYA's modern lens.

Among the standout new appetizers are the **Tuna al Tamarindo**, featuring thinly sliced tuna sashimi served with tamarind *leche de tigre*, creamy avocado, marinated onions, radishes, cilantro, and crispy tortillas dusted with *tajín*; and the **Beef Stew Croquettes**, a playful nod to Caribbean comfort food, served with truffle and black garlic mayonnaise. Guests can also savor the **Beef and Pork Brochetas**, made with locally smoked bacon, *Madam Jeannette* peppers, local honey, and tenderloin, grilled to perfection and served with *chimi-churri espuma*.

The main courses bring equal excitement. Highlights include the **Chilean Sea Bass**, pan fried and served with a smooth carrot and *ají amarillo* sauce, creamy garlic mashed

potatoes, grilled paksoi and broccoli, hearts of palm, toasted cashews, and a fragrant lime leaf vinaigrette. Another showstopper is the **Duck and Rice**, a Caribbean interpretation of a Peruvian classic, featuring pan fried duck breast with aromatic green rice infused with local herbs, kombucha, and *ají amarillo*, finished with a pan fried egg and *sarsa criolla*.

Dessert lovers are in for a treat as well. The **Caribbean Black Forest** reimagines the classic with a tropical twist, featuring a rich brownie served with red fruit, coconut mousse, chocolate, and banana rum ice cream. The **Merengon Tropical** delights with sage panna cotta, mango and pineapple compote, mango sorbet, and citrus meringue.



Guests can also enjoy CAYA's new *Sabor Experience*, a limited time three course menu priced at \$79, allowing diners to explore an appetizer, main course, and dessert of their choice.

To complete the experience, CAYA hosts live music every Sunday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., setting the perfect backdrop for an evening of island charm and culinary artistry.

CAYA continues to invite locals and visitors alike to experience the heart of Aruba, where Latin Caribbean heritage comes alive in every dish, every note of music, and every heartfelt welcome. □



Blackstone Beach

(Oranjestad)—Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Secondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of in the southern region. So, if you feel up for something different—or if it's opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach.

Blackstone Beach shows the more natural side of Aruba; the stones that cover the beach and the shape of it has been crafted for thousands of years through volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern part of the island.

Located further east to the Natural Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock Formation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andicuri Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1km hike towards Blackstone Beach.

Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not advised to swim in the water, as the current is very strong and can easily stray you further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family! □





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Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!

(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building “Cocolishi”, is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actually referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged: the fort and the tower. That's right, the iconic 5-story, squared tower was not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually called “Willem III Toren”. Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem

III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it also became a bell tower.

The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of Paardenbaai from pirates

and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the Willem III Toren, Fort Zoutman had a more tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of unwanted members of the English military several times (The Netherlands was at constant war with England

back in the colonial era).

Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different government center points, including a tax and stamps office. For some time these two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail, and even experienced

abandonment until the Cultural Center Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation in 1964, turning the site into the Historic Museum it currently is.

Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary.

The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm. ☐

Source: The Old Fort of Aruba by Jan Hartog.



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Infini Launches New Menu 14 Following Its Five-Year Anniversary Celebration

Infini has officially launched Menu 14, a special edition menu unveiled in celebration of the restaurant's five-year anniversary. The new menu revisits guests' favorite dishes from the past five years, blending nostalgia with

fresh interpretations inspired by Infini's signature approach to modern gastronomy.

Infini stands for limitless possibilities, and Menu 14 perfectly embodies that philosophy. Crafted by Chef Urvin Croes, the menu celebrates innovation, creativity, and fearless exploration. Known for pushing boundaries through storytelling, technique, and flavor, Chef Urvin continues to redefine Aruba's fine dining scene. Infini's immersive chef's table concept invites guests to interact directly with the culinary team, transforming each dish into a chapter of an evolving narrative.

Before opening Infini, Chef Urvin honed his craft in Aruba's most prestigious hotel restaurants, rising from apprentice cook to Sous Chef, and gaining international experience at the Michelin-rated Grand Hotel Karel V in Europe. His mission has always been to position Aruba as a leading culinary destination by reimagining local recipes with modern techniques and artistic precision.

Dedicated to supporting local farmers and producers, Chef Urvin incorporates homegrown ingredients that reflect the island's rich food culture. His collaborations with these artisans are essential to Infini's distinctive culinary identity. With numerous awards to his name—including being crowned the first-ever Iron



Chef Aruba—Chef Urvin remains grounded in his passion, curiosity, and love for sharing Aruba's story through food. Menu 14 invites diners to taste, explore, and rediscover Infini's journey while looking forward to the limitless possibilities ahead. Reservations are highly recommended to experience this new chapter in Infini's evolving culinary story. □



Rock stacking and its harmful effects

(Oranjestad)—The organization Aruba Birdlife Conservation has in the past raised concerns about the phenomenon of “rock stacking” in the area of Baby Beach and warned about the dangers it poses, especially for children.

As known, “rock stacking” is not illegal in Aruba, but its impact on nature is harmful as the stones form part of the natural habitat of small animal species living in Aruba's wilderness. Experts warn that “rock stacking” could even lead certain species to extinction.

In Aruba, much of the “rock stacking” also oc-

curs near Arikok National Park. Although this activity is not illegal in Aruba, it may be time for park authorities to impose stricter regulations on this activity.

Tourists often believe that the meaning behind this activity is making a wish, but they do not realize its negative impact.

Aruba Birdlife Conservation's post not only raises alarms about the activity but also now that this phenomenon has reached Baby Beach, some of the stacked stone towers are up to 1.7 meters high, which can be very dangerous, especially for children. □





Article by Etnia Nativa

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Episode CCCLI - 351

Aruba's Hidden Past: The Story Buried in Sand

Aruba's history runs deeper than most visitors realize. Every week, we at Etnia Nativa unveil the island's ancient pathways, uncovering traditions and stories that continue to shape its cultural roots. In this episode, curious travelers are invited to discover a hidden truth: Aruba's past stretches far beyond its postcard beaches. Etnia Nativa reveals the enduring connection between the island's spirits, its people, and the land itself—a connection that has sustained life for millennia.

Long before Western civilization reached these shores, Aruba's first inhabitants arrived. These Paleolithic hunter-gatherers crossed the seas in canoes nearly 15,000 years ago. Their presence may be subtle to the untrained eye, but meticulous archaeological research has uncovered activity sites, human remains, and artifacts: flint and stone tools, projectile points, hearths, and objects crafted from seashells.

From the rocky coasts near Malmok to Arashi and beyond, these early sites were centers for fishing, gathering, and daily survival. The naturally saline soil in some areas, where they buried their dead, has remarkably preserved teeth and bones, allowing researchers to reconstruct elements of early Aruban life. Most other organic artifacts have long since decomposed, leaving behind only traces—rock art, shell mounds, and remnants of daily activity.

Among Aruba's most significant archaeological treasures are shell middens—ancient refuse heaps of sand, shells, stones, and pebbles. Typically located within fifty meters of the shore along the south and west coasts, these middens are windows into the past, containing fish, bird, reptile, and mammal bones, charcoal, prehistoric pottery, and even remnants from later European settlements.

Middens were used across different periods. Their deposits often mix materials from the Paleolithic era, the ceramic agricultural period, and early European colonization. Later layers may include glass, metal, pottery, and bones of introduced animals like goats, cattle, and pigs. Some of Aruba's largest middens now lie beneath modern developments, including



hotel zones. The Arashi Midden has been the focus of preservation efforts for decades. Initially protected with boulders to block access, it now faces erosion from public negligence. Each careless activity chips away at this irreplaceable link to Aruba's past. Efforts to protect the Arashi Midden began some 30 years ago, when boulders were placed to block access. For a time, this prevented campers and vehicles from damaging the site. But today, the stones have been moved, and public negligence is eroding the Midden.

So, what exactly is a Midden? The term comes from Middle English, meaning a household rubbish heap. Archaeologists use it to describe the piles of materials discarded by humans. Studying middens reveals what people ate, the tools they used, and how their environment changed over time. Radiocarbon dating of bones, shells, and charcoal helps researchers determine when sites were occupied, offering a timeline of human activity. Early Aruban diets were rich and var-

ied. Hunters relied heavily on manatees and monk seals, prized for their protein and fat. As these resources became scarce, they supplemented their diets with shellfish, turtles, birds, rabbits, iguanas, etc.. Seeds, land snails, and charcoal from middens help reconstruct the island's lost ecology, offering clues to past vegetation and human impact on the environment. Unlike oral histories or official records, which often focus on leaders or major events, middens reveal the everyday lives of ordinary people—their survival strategies, food sources, and tools.

Protecting these sites is vital. Every step along Arashi and other coastal areas may conceal thousands of years of human history. Respecting these fragile middens ensures future generations can learn from the resilience and ingenuity of Aruba's earliest inhabitants. □

For those seeking more than the surface beauty of Aruba, Etnia Nativa offers a rare experience: a personal encounter with the island's ancestral soul. Here, heritage is not just preserved—it is lived. The story of Aruba's past is buried in humble sand dunes, waiting to teach us about resilience, ingenuity, and the daily lives of those who came before.

Aruba's history rests in the sand, and if we fail to honor it, its stories may disappear.

Personal experiences with Etnia Nativa are available by appointment:

WhatsApp +297 592 2702
etniana03@gmail.com



Image courtesy of Etnia Nativa

Aruban snacks and where to find them

ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a

Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typi-

cally found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find them at local bakeries all over the island. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing "batido"? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batidos along the flea market downtown.

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice



from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

- Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
- Along the main road next to the airport field.
- At the California Light House.

- At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert "cocada" or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them! □

Photo credit: wheninaruba.com



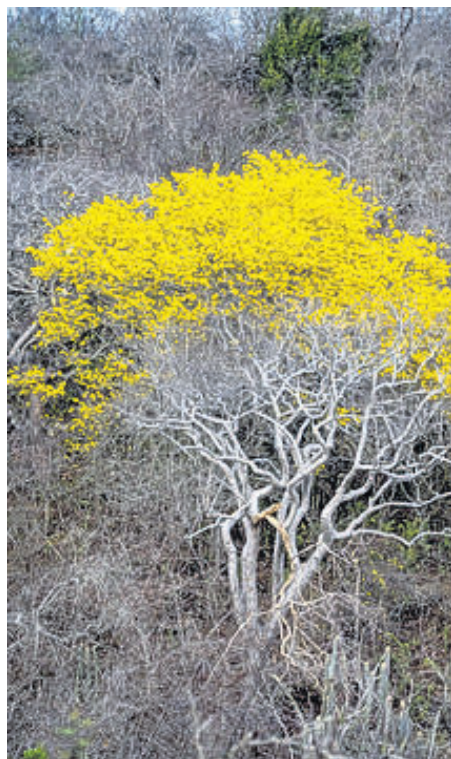
The legend of the Kibrahacha tree

ORANJESTAD—The Kibrahacha is a famous tree known locally for its bright, yellow flowers that blooms for just three days. Scientifically known as *Tabebuia billbergii*, and in English as the Yellow Poui, this tree is native to the Caribbean islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao, and is considered among locals as one of the most spectacular trees on the island. But did you also know that the beautiful yellow flowers have a story behind them?

The Kibrahacha is said to have extremely hard wood—so hard that it can break an axe. In fact, that's what its name means in Papiamentu: "kibra" (break) "hacha" (axe). The flowers bloom around April and May, but this only last for about three days, as the flowers start to fall off and the tree starts growing its green leaves. The Kibrahacha is especially particular, as it's the only one among its neighboring trees to starts blooming first.

The legend of the Kibrahacha
Written by Hubert (Lio Booi)

One day Aterima, who lived west of the hill Sero Warawara, woke up one day to find her father sleeping in his hammock, suffering a bout of terrible fever. Her mother was very worried, and as was the custom in the olden days, asked Aterima to



go fetch Kudawecha, who was a epistemophile, to come see his father.

Aterima wasted to time and went to go fetch Kudawecha. Upon telling Kudawecha that her father was sick, he immediately accompanied Aretima back to her hut, where he encountered her father in a bad state. Not willing to waste any time, he told Aretima that the only thing that can cure her father is a home-made potion made out of the Kibrahacha flower. At the time

the Kibrahacha was not yet in her blooming season, but the stubborn Kudawecha was determined to bring back Aretima's father back to health, and so off they went to the nearest Kibrahacha tree.

When they arrived at the tree, they saw that it was covered head to toe in thorns, with only a few closed flowers at the very top. Kudawecha, experienced veteran in all things Aruban flora and fauna, told Aretima to start plucking the thorns of the tree to climb to the top where the flowers are. Aretima, just as determined to save her father, didn't hesitate to start.

To her surprise, every time she plucked a thorn of the tree, a bright, yellow flower bloomed in its place. The thorns were hard to pluck out, but Aretima continued plucking with enthusiasm and wonder at the unfolding sight before her. Not too long after she was able to fill her entire satchel with the yellow flowers.

Kudawecha, satisfied to see Aretima so happy and encouraged to help her father, took her back to her hut.

Upon arriving back at the hut, Aretima's mother quickly made a tea out of the flowers and gave it to her sick husband. Miraculously,

after just one sip of the tea, the father's fever left his body immediately, and he opened eyes and sprung up feeling new.

The next morning, they all visited the same Kibrahacha tree that saved the life of Aretima's father and they saw another miracle. The tree was covered again in the same bright, yellow flowers, with not a thorn in sight. And as the legend goes, from that day on, the Kibrahacha tree no longer produced any more thorns. □

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 37 Singer
1 Gift-wrapping need
5 Lesser-played half of a 45
10 Beige
11 Indivisible numbers
13 Fleet member
14 Tuba sound
15 Hardy hen
17 Poem of praise
18 Classifies
19 Cath. or Prot.
20 Beam of light
21 Lab bottle
22 Delicate
25 Deceitful people
26 Maggie and Bart's sister
27 Singer
28 Play division
29 Furniture wheels
33 Question of identity
34 Coin-op eatery
35 Bit of gossip

- 38 Least moist
39 "What's — for me?"
40 Copenhagen natives
41 Totals

DOWN

- 1 Inventor
2 Massage targets
3 Puritanical ones
4 Bliss
5 Stylish
6 Some golf clubs
7 Poorly lit
8 Stores
9 "Come on, help me out"
12 Beach-combing finds
16 Vaccine type
21 Long-reigning queen
22 Imperfect
23 Explorer
24 Oregon city
25 Shopping aid
27 Bank fixtures
29 Lead to
30 Correct, as text
31 Zealous
32 ERA and
36 Marsh

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-22

CRYPTOQUOTE

Y N N Q J U A P Z L K Z E A
F N G G Z F A N K , E G Q V E R L P U
E K Z A P Z F Z I Z G A . — W P J V
K N U Z G A P E V

Cryptoquote: YOU THINK YOUR PAIN AND YOUR HEARTBREAK ARE UNPRECEDENTED IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD, BUT THEN YOU READ. — JAMES BALDWIN



Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the

Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE

02 SAT	CARIBBEAN PRINCESS	Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: C
05 TUE	CELEBRITY SILHOUTTE	Arrival: 08:00 Departure: 17:00 Berth: B
	CARNIVAL MAGIC	Arrival: 9:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: C
06 WED	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	Arrival: 11:59 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
12 TUE	CARNIVAL HORIZON	Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B
	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
19 TUE	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	Arrival: 7:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: B
	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
20 WED	ALLURE OF THE SEAS	Arrival: 7:00 Departure: 16:00 Berth: I
	CARNIVAL VISTA	Arrival: 7:00 Departure: 16:00 Berth: C
21 THU	CARNIVAL VENEZIA	Arrival: 9:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: C
26 TUE	CARNIVAL HORIZON	Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B
	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

8	6	2				3		
	3						8	
5			3		2			
6	2	9		7				1
	5					7		
	7	8		6		2		3
7	4			5				
	8		6				3	9
	9				8			7

Difficulty: ★★★

5/6

Answer to previous puzzle

2	5	9	1	7	4	8	3	6
4	3	8	5	9	6	7	1	2
7	6	1	3	8	2	4	5	9
6	2	4	7	3	1	9	8	5
5	1	7	9	2	8	6	4	3
8	9	3	4	6	5	2	7	1
3	4	2	6	1	7	5	9	8
9	7	6	8	5	3	1	2	4
1	8	5	2	4	9	3	6	7

Difficulty: ★★

5/5

'Super El Nino' raises fears for Asia reeling from Middle East conflict

Bangkok, Thailand

Already reeling from the effects of conflict in the Middle East, Asia is now facing the prospect of strong El Nino conditions that could spike energy demand, sap hydropower, and damage crops.

El Nino is a naturally occurring climate phenomenon that brings worldwide changes in winds, air pressure, and rainfall patterns. Last week, the United Nations' weather and climate agency said El Nino conditions could develop as soon as May to July.

The World Meteorological Organization, meanwhile, said early signs indicated the event could be particularly strong, with some dubbing the impending event a "super El Nino", although the term is not used by scientists.

That is not good news for Asia, parts of which are traditionally heavily affected by the heatwaves, drought and heavy rains that El Nino can bring.

The phenomenon essentially shifts traditional weather patterns around, for example moving rain that normally falls over Indonesia out to sea, leaving the country vulnerable to drought and wildfires.

El Nino occurs around every two to seven years and is forecast based on sea temperatures.

"The subsurface anomaly that we're seeing so far is pretty strong," said Peter van Rensch, a climate scientist at Australia's Monash University.

"It does look a little bit like what we saw in the 1997/98 event, and that was probably the strongest El Nino," he told AFP.

There are still plenty of uncertainties, and van Rensch cautioned it was possible an El Nino might not develop at all.

- Catastrophic impacts -

But the 1997 El Nino brought catastrophic impacts, including extreme drought and devastating wildfires



Farmers harvest carrots at a field on the outskirts of Lahore on April 19, 2026. Already reeling from the effects of conflict in the Middle East, Asia is now facing the prospect of strong El Nino conditions that could spike energy demand, sap hydropower and damage crops.

in Indonesia that burned through millions of hectares and created regional air pollution.

Authorities there have already identified peatlands at risk, and warned the country could see its lowest rainfall in 30 years.

The warnings come with Asia buckling under the strain of an energy supply crunch and fears over shortages of fertiliser and other industrial and agricultural components which pass through the Strait of Hormuz.

Iran has effectively closed the strategic waterway

since the United States and Israel launched attacks on the country on February 28, disrupting global fuel supplies.

Hotter weather will strain energy grids already experiencing fuel shortages, as populations seek to cool homes and workplaces, warned Haneea Isaad, energy finance specialist at the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.

"For countries that are highly dependent on the Strait of Hormuz for oil and gas deliveries and other trade, strained supply will

lead to further fuel rationing, demand-side management and a reduction in economic activities... impacting overall GDP growth," she told AFP.



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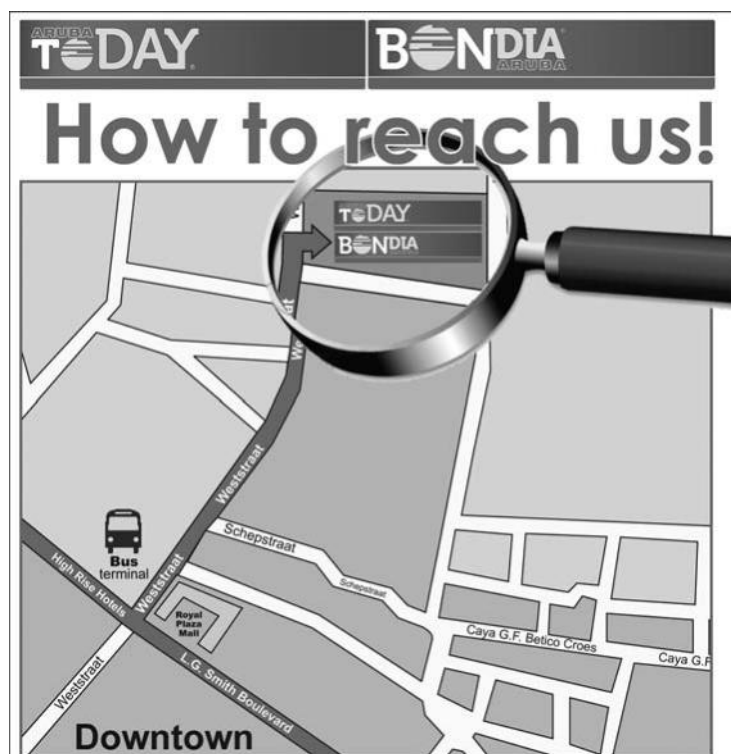
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Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad: Dakota
Tel. 588 7364

San Nicolas: Centro Medico
Tel. 584 5794

OTHER

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic 588 0539

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Police 100
Police Oranjestad 527 3140
Police Noord 527 3200
Police Sta. Cruz 527 2900
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Police Tipline 11141
Ambulance 911
Fire Dept. 115
Red Cross 582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

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Taxi D.T.S. 587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba 583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv. 280 2828

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FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Against Domestic Violence(FCVR)
Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

French scholars seek to resurrect Moliere with AI play

Paris, France

What might France's greatest playwright have written had he not died of tuberculosis in 1673?

A team of French scholars, researchers and artists have joined forces to tap into the power of artificial intelligence to create a play they say Moliere himself might have written.

"The Astrologer, or False Omens" is the result of three years of collaboration between the Sorbonne University and Obvious, a French trio of artists and researchers, who have trained AI to imitate Moliere's style and mastery of satire.

The playwright, considered the father of modern French comedy, is as central to the nation's culture as Shakespeare to the English-speaking world -- so much so that French refer to their native tongue as the "language of Moliere". Written in 17th-century French, the AI creation will hit the stage at the Royal Opera of Versailles on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The three-act farce tells the story of a credulous father whose obsession with astrology leads him to force his young daughter to marry an old wigmaker.

Fidelity to Moliere's creative process and scholarly rigour were at the heart of



This photograph taken on December 14, 2021 shows a page from an old anthology of plays by French playwright Moliere, at the Comedie Francaise library in Paris.

the project, said Pierre-Marie Chauvin, a vice president at the Sorbonne.

"There is no existing protocol for creating a play in the style of Moliere, so we had to devise one, but in the most rigorous way possible, and above all the most faithful," he told AFP. The Sorbonne has said the "Moliere Ex Machina" project was aimed at "bringing to life a world that never was, but could have been", and acknowledged its attempt to imitate Moliere "was bold, almost sacrilegious".

Chauvin said the success of the project would be measured by its effect on the

audience.

"Does it make people laugh?" he said.

- AI music and costumes -

The project is being billed as the first theatrical play written by AI.

It cost one million euros (\$1.2 million), funded by North American donors and a handful of French patrons.

Researchers worked with Le Chat, a generative AI tool developed by the French start-up Mistral, training it on Moliere's body of work, as well as dialogues and philosophical treatises.

The generated text was then reviewed during writ-

ing workshops with Coraline Renaux, a doctoral student in literature, and Mickael Bouffard, head of the Theatre Moliere Sorbonne, which seeks to revive theatrical techniques of the 17th century.

The work was subsequently submitted to reading committees, tasked with checking its syntax and overall coherence.

"In creating this piece, there were at least 20,000 back-and-forth exchanges between the algorithms and the creative team," said Gauthier Vernier of Obvious.

The AI was also trained to

create about 15 costumes, as well as music and sets.

"For each costume, we'd go through around 50 iterations," said Hugo Casselles-Dupre, also of Obvious.

"We had a huge number of back-and-forth discussions."

- 'Very human skills' -

The theme of astrology emerged fairly quickly, as Moliere was interested in "denouncing human credulity", Bouffard said.

"The plot is very Moliere-esque," said the Quebec native, adding that the name of the father's astrologer, Pseudoramus a pseudo-Nostradamus -- was "a clever invention by AI".

For the costumes and sets, the technology was trained using sketches by Henri de Gisey, a costume designer and decorator for the court of King Louis XIV.

Musicologists guided the AI's musical output using sheet music.

The stage production involves nine actors, two dancers and four musicians. It showcases wigs, hand-sewn costumes and sets made using period techniques.

AFP attended a recent rehearsal at the Theatre des Trois Pierrots in Saint-Cloud, west of Paris.

The plot and dialogue appeared plausible. □

Yoko says Oh no to 'John Lemon' beer

Brest, France

The old saying about lemons and lemonade has borne fruit for a French craft brewery, which was ordered by Yoko Ono to stop making its "John Lemon" beer and has now nearly sold out thanks to the publicity.

Aurelien Picard, owner of the Brasserie de l'Imprimerie brewery in the Brittany region, says he received notice in late March from lawyers for Ono to halt the use of the brand name or pay royalties for referencing her late husband, Beatles legend John Lennon.

"There were numbers like 100,000 euros (\$117,000), and between 150 and 1,000 euros per day in penalties if we didn't do what they said," Picard told AFP. "Basically, they demanded we recall all our product and immediately stop using the brand."

After some back-and-forth, the small brewery won permission to sell its remaining 5,000 bottles by July 1, then halt production of the brand.

But the media attention generated by the dispute turned out to be great publicity: the brewery nearly

sold out of John Lemon in a matter of days.

"It was crazy. I have less than 1,000 left," said Picard. "It was kind of funny, amid our misfortune."

The brewery, several of whose beers play on celebrity names, launched John Lemon five years ago, because it seemed "cool", said Picard.

The company, located in the northwestern town of Bannalec, has two employees and sells between 50,000 and 80,000 bottles per year, mainly to liquor stores and restaurants within a 40-kilometre (25-mile) radius.



French brewer Aurelien Picard holds a bottle of a beer named 'John Lemon', a play on words in reference to British musician John Lennon at the brewery 'Brasserie de l'imprimerie' in Bannalec, western France on May 5, 2026.

It is now looking for a new name for its flavorful blonde beer.

Picard thought of "Jaune

Lemon" the French word for "yellow" but Ono's lawyers were sour on the idea, he said. □



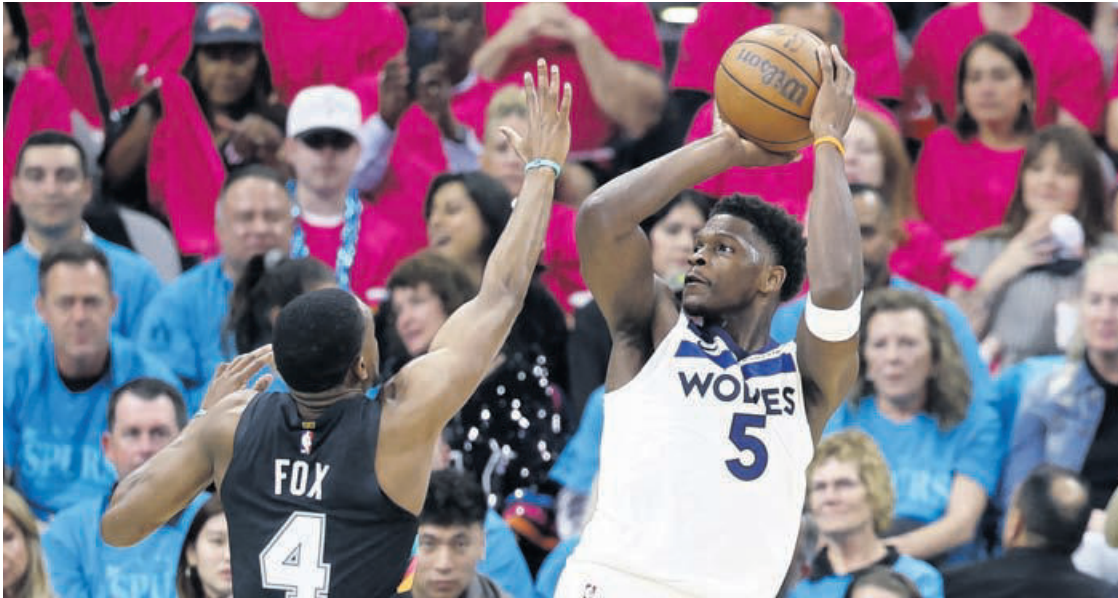
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Price	\$30	\$50





Anthony Edwards #5 of the Minnesota Timberwolves shoots the ball against De'aaron Fox #4 of the San Antonio Spurs during the first half of a game in Game One of the Second Round of the NBA Western Conference Playoffs at Frost Bank Center on May 04, 2026 in San Antonio, Texas.

Timberwolves eclipse Spurs as Knicks rout Sixers

New York, United States

Anthony Edwards returned from injury to eclipse a record-breaking defensive performance from Victor Wembanyama as the Minnesota Timberwolves upset the second-seeded San Antonio Spurs 104-102 in the NBA playoffs on Monday.

Newly crowned NBA defensive player of the year Wembanyama muscled his way to 12 blocks a record in a postseason game but it was not enough to thwart a resilient performance from the sixth-seeded Timberwolves.

Minnesota ace Edwards, who missed the final two games of the Wolves' first-round series win over Denver with a left knee injury, scored 18 points from the bench despite clearly being short of full fitness.

Edwards' effort was backed by 21 points from Julius Randle while four other Minnesota players cracked double figures in a precious opening victory on the road in the best-of-seven Western Conference semi-final series.

"We just want to win ball games, that's all we want to do as a group, no matter who it is, we don't care," Edwards said.

"I may not be as athletic as I usually am, but I got to be able to box out and make those small plays and win a big-time game," he added.

San Antonio were left reflecting on an agonizing finish which saw Julian Champagnie's attempted buzzer-beater to snatch victory bounce off the rim as the clock expired.

Wembanyama's monster defensive performance also included 15 rebounds with 11 points in what turned out to be a losing effort.

Dylan Harper led the Spurs scoring with 18 points off the bench on a night when seven San Antonio players finished with double-digit points tallies.

Wembanyama vowed an improvement when San Antonio attempt to level game two of the series on Wednesday.

"Obviously we have to be

better," he said.

"We need to figure out in the next 48 hours what we can do better. And I've got no doubt that we will. I would trust us," the Frenchman said.

"It's a lot on me because obviously my game wasn't feeling good tonight and that's where the team is going to look for me," Wembanyama added. "If I had been better, if the offensive leaders of our team had been better, it would have been different."

- Brunson leads Knicks romp -

Jalen Brunson produced a dazzling 35-point performance as the New York Knicks pummeled the Philadelphia 76ers 137-98 to grab a 1-0 lead in their Eastern Conference semi-final series.

Knicks talisman Brunson led a dominant New York offense who erupted for 74 points in the first half and were always in control against a dangerous Sixers side who upset second-seeded Boston in the first round.□

Detroit Tigers star pitcher Skubal to undergo elbow surgery



Tarik Skubal #29 of the Detroit Tigers pitches in the first inning against the Atlanta Braves at Truist Park on April 29, 2026 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Washington, United States

Two-time reigning American League Cy Young Award winner as top pitcher Tarik Skubal will undergo arthroscopic elbow surgery to remove loose bodies, Major League Baseball's Detroit Tigers announced on Monday.

The move came after an elbow injury flared up on Sunday, with neither the Tigers nor the 29-year-old left-hander putting a timetable on his return from an injury that typically requires a two- or three-month recovery. Skubal was pulled from a scheduled Monday start against Boston five days after an injury scare last Wednesday against Atlanta and sent to the injured list. Skubal shook his left arm and grabbed his forearm in Atlanta. He prepared for his next start but suffered a setback in work on Sunday.

"I thought I was progressing in a very positive manner," Skubal said. "Yesterday's catch play just didn't really go great, which led to getting scans and getting the information."

Skubal won a record \$32 million arbitration decision to pitch this season and will be a free agent after the campaign.

"This is something I've kind of been dealing with," Skubal said. "But then again, it was progressing in a positive manner, so I wasn't very concerned about it." Skubal has no ligament damage and is likely to pitch again this season.

"From my understanding, you just go take (the loose bodies) out," Skubal said. "I'm going to come back and be the same guy. I'm not really too worried about that."

Skubal is 3-2 this season with a 2.70 earned-run average and 45 strikeouts in 43.3 innings for the Tigers, who share the AL Central division lead with Cleveland at 18-17. Skubal had Tommy John ligament replacement surgery and missed the 2017 college season, then had left forearm tendon surgery in August 2022 and missed 11 months.□



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Sabalenka ready to boycott Grand Slams over prize money

Rome, Italy

World number one Aryna Sabalenka said Tuesday she was ready to boycott the Grand Slam tournaments in order to have a greater share of the prize money.

"I feel like the show is on us. Without us there wouldn't be a tournament and there wouldn't be that en-

tertainment," the four-time Grand Slam winner told a press conference at the Italian Open.

"I feel like definitely we deserve to be paid more percentage.

"I think at some point we will boycott. I feel like that's going to be the only way to fight for our rights.

"We girls can easily get to-

gether and go for this because some of the things I feel like it's really unfair to the players. I think at some point it's going to get to this."

Last year almost all the leading players signed two letters to the four Grand Slam bosses demanding an increase in prize money, payments into a player



Belarus' tennis player Aryna Sabalenka poses with her Best Sportswoman Award during the 27th Laureus World Sports Awards gala in Madrid on April 20, 2026.

welfare fund to improve retirement and maternity benefits, as well as involvement in decisions that affected them.

The letters set a target of a 22-percent share in tournament revenue, which would bring the majors in line with the nine combined 1000-level events run by the ATP men's tour and the women's WTA tour.

However Poland's Iga Swiatek, a four-time French Open singles champion, believes boycotting tournaments "is a bit extreme". "I think the most important thing honestly is to have proper communication and discussions with the governing bodies so we have some space to talk and maybe negotiate," said Swiatek, who has also

won Wimbledon and the US Open.

"Hopefully before Roland Garros there's going to be an opportunity to have these type of meetings and we'll see how they go." On Monday, players said in a statement that an announcement by the French Open last month of a 9.5-percent prize money rise was not good enough. It said that last year Roland Garros generated 395 million euros (\$463 mn), a 14-percent increase.

However the total purse went up by just 5.4 percent, reducing player share of revenue to 14.3 percent. It estimated that this year's revenues would pass 400 mn euros, leaving the player cut still below 15 percent. □

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